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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT,
WEDNESDAY, JULY 21, 2004

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEALS

Airbus Gesture for Chirac - Hurriyet
30th Anniversary of Cyprus Peace Operation - Hurriyet
Armenia Border Opening a Condition from Erdogan - Sabah
Erdogan's Nuclear Energy Bribery for France - Milliyet
Chirac: "Bush Might Attack Syria" - Milliyet
Denktas Criticizes Annan Plan, GOT, and 'TRNC Government' -
Milliyet
FM Gul to EU: "Keep Your Promise for TRNC" - Turkiye

OPINION MAKERS

Turkey Plays Economic Cards for EU entry - Cumhuriyet
Chirac Remains Silent - Radikal
Trade With France According to Its Support for Turkey's EU
Bid - Yeni Safak

BRIEFING

PM Erdogan in France: "Milliyet" reports that despite powerful economic incentives offered by PM Erdogan, France has declined to support Turkey's EU entry. In his meeting with French President Chirac, Erdogan promised to give priority to France in Turkey's nuclear energy projects and in the purchase of new aircraft for the THY fleet. Despite all these offers, Chirac extended only weak support to Turkey and did not hold a joint press conference with Erdogan. Neither side issued a written statement following the meeting. "Radikal" noted that Chirac remained silent after his meeting with Erdogan. "Cumhuriyet" reports that a preliminary agreement for the Airbus deal will be signed today. Left-leaning "Birgun" notes that despite all of the economic 'bribery' offered to France, PM Erdogan will return to Turkey empty-handed. "Turkiye" writes that Chirac extended France's support to Erdogan for Turkey's EU membership. In a press conference in Paris yesterday, PM Erdogan said that Turkey would not accept conditional EU approval for accession negotiations, and reiterated that EU entry was not an 'obsession' for the Turks. "Sabah" reports that Chirac express his hope during the Erdogan meeting that US President George Bush 'won't do anything crazy' before the US election. Chirac specifically noted his concern about a possible US military action against Syria in coming months.

Armenian Border Gate: "Sabah" reports that the Armenian issue was raised during Erdogan's meeting with the French Foreign Relations Committee. Erdogan said that the issue should be 'left to historians.' The Armenian Diaspora is making a mistake, Erdogan said, by keeping the issue on the agenda. 'This is not in favor of Armenia, he added. Erdogan said that ties between the two countries cannot be improved as long as the campaign against Turkey continues. 'Turkey can open its border with Armenia when the campaign has ended.'

Genocide Document Exchange With Armenia: "Milliyet" reports that during the Vienna Armenian Turkish Platform on July 16, Turkish and Armenian scholars exchanged documents about the so-called Armenian genocide. The Armenians presented the Turkish side with 100 documents confirming the genocide, and the Turkish side presented 100 documents to invalidate the claim.

Cyprus: "Milliyet" and "Cumhuriyet" report on the visit of State Department DAS Laura Kennedy to Ankara. "Milliyet" notes that Kennedy has also assumed the responsibilities previously held by former US Cyprus envoy Thomas Weston. "Cumhuriyet" characterizes the visit as the US 'testing the ground' for holding a new referendum in Cyprus. All papers report about the ceremonies held in Cyprus for the 30th anniversary of the Cyprus 'Peace operation.' In a statement during the celebrations, Turkish FM Gul called on EU

countries, the US, and the rest of the world should fulfill the promises given to the Turkish Cypriots before the referendum.

US Official: Turkey's Improving Relations with Syria, Iran not a Problem: "Hurriyet" quotes a US official in Washington as saying that Turkey's recent moves to improve relations with Syria and Iran do not cause a problem for the United States. 'Turkey knows these countries well,' the official said, adding that 'one is ruled by the mullahs and the other is autocratic.' 'The Turks also know that these countries support terrorism and are trying to develop weapons of mass destruction,' the official said. 'We are pleased that Turkey has engaged with these countries to encourage them to take steps toward reform and democracy,' he concluded.

EDITORIAL OPINION: EU Enlargement and Turkey

"EU Creates New Conditions"
Zafer Atay criticized in the economic-political Dunya (7/21): "The NATO summit was full of goodwill gestures and pro-Turkey rhetoric from EU leaders, yet it seems those days are over now. EU officials continue to repeat that there will be no extraordinary criteria for Turkey's case, and that normal EU procedures will be followed. That means the decision about Turkey will be based on whether Turkey meets the Copenhagen criteria and the tone of the upcoming EU Commission report. ... However, some circles have started to create new conditions just to make the procedure more difficult for Turkey. New 'ideas' include an attempt by some French parliamentarians to force the acceptance of the Armenian 'genocide' or to add more preconditions on the Cyprus issue. On top of that, we have a statement from the German Prime Minister, who recently spoke about the possibility of giving a 'conditional yes' to Turkey. ... The EU has never imposed such conditions or applied special criteria to any of its members in the past. It seems that the Greek Cypriots have already forgotten about their shame in the April referendum, and are taking the lead in EU efforts to create new conditions for Turkey. ... We hope the EU will not take such initiatives seriously, and will follow the normal procedures for Turkey's accession talks."

"The EU's Litmus Test: Strategic Thinking or Racism?"
Mehmet Ocaktan wrote in the Islamist-opinion maker Yeni Safak (7/21): "Turkey's EU vision is moving toward its final destination. The fate of Turkey's effort will become clear in December 2004. There are several scenarios circulating regarding the outcome of the EU summit. This is quite understandable, because this is an international game being played among the giants. The key players are France and Germany. Their position will shape the outcome of the EU decision on whether or not to start negotiations with Turkey. The recent statement by the German Prime Minister is quite confusing. Although he was talking about a 'conditional yes,' the real meaning of his comments is a postponement of accession negotiations with Turkey. ... In this process, we will all see whether EU countries, especially France, will be able to rid themselves of the 'Christian Club' mentality and see the EU in a broader perspective. ... EU decision makers should act with common sense based on political and strategic realities by beginning negotiations with Turkey right after the December summit."

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